

6/16/05
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) A method of assembling fence sections, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. assembling fence pickets and rails to form a fence section;
- b. positioning said fence section in the path of a banding machine; and
- c. banding said fence section with a band from said banding machine such that said band forms a tight, closed loop that extends from a first one of said rails to a second one of said rails and back to said first one of said rails, thereby wrapping entirely around said rails and holding said fence section together.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said fence section comprises plastic rails and plastic pickets.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said band is plastic.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said rails have channels therein for receiving ends of said pickets.

5. (original) The fence section assembled and banded as described in claim 1.

6. (currently amended) A method of assembling fence sections, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. assembling a fence section, said fence section comprising a first rail, a second rail, and a picket connecting said first rail to said second rail; and
- b. wrapping a band around said fence section using a banding machine, said band forming a closed loop that extends from said first rail to said second rail and back to said first rail such that said first rail, said second rail, and said picket are secured together.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein:

said first rail has a channel that receives a first end of said picket when assembled; and

said second rail has a channel that receives a second end of said picket when assembled.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of moving said fence section on rollers to a position to be wrapped with said band.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of transferring said fence section on rollers after said band has been wrapped around said fence section.

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~44~~21 further comprising the steps of:

installing said fence section; and

removing said band from said fence section.

13-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A method of assembling fence sections, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. assembling a fence section, said fence section comprising a first rail, a second rail, and a picket connecting said first rail to said second rail;
- b. wrapping a band around said fence section, said band forming a closed loop that extends from said first rail to said second rail and back to said first rail such that said first rail, said second rail, and said picket are secured together; and
- c. shipping said fence section to an installation site after said band has been wrapped around said fence section.

22. (new) A method of assembling fence sections, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. assembling a fence section, said fence section comprising a first rail, a second rail, and a picket connecting said first rail to said second rail;
- b. moving said fence section on rollers to a banding machine;
- c. wrapping a band around said fence section, said band forming a closed loop that extends from said first rail to said second rail and back to said first rail such that said first rail, said second rail, and said picket are secured together;
- d. transferring said fence section on rollers after said band has been wrapped around said fence section;
- e. shipping said fence section to an installation site;
- f. installing said fence section; and

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- g. removing said band from said fence section.